THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects under the schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Central Financial Assistance sanctioned to the State of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount Sanctioned
2004-05	2680.00
2005-06	1645.00
2006-07	1871.00

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time.

Foreign tourists visiting Himachal Pradesh

1028. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of arrival of foreign tourists in the country has increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to estimate the increase in the number of foreign tourists in the next five years; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to attract more tourists and to provide facilities of transportation, accommodation, medical and other facilities to them in the hilly areas, particularly, in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The increase in foreign tourist arrivals to India during the year 2005 in comparison to 2004, and the year 2006 in comparison to 2005, is 13.3% and 13.5% respectively.

(b) The details of foreign tourist visits to different States/UTs during 2005 and 2006 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) A study has been commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism to examine the various aspects of tourism covering existing policies, infrastructure, marketing strategies, etc., and prepare a plan for increasing the flow of foreign tourists in the country.

(d) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central

Financial Assistance to States/UTs, including Himachal Pradesh, for development of Destinations/Circuits under its Scheme 'Product Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

The other steps being taken by the Government for attracting more tourists to India and to provide facilities to them include:

- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
- Placing on the Ministry's website a guide on select hospitals of the country for health tourism purposes;
- Launching of a social awareness campaign aimed at providing the tourists with a sense of being welcomed to and by the country;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;
- According greater focus to the emerging markets, particularly of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Use of Internet and web marketing; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

Statement

Foreign tourists visiting Himachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	State	Foreign Tourist Visits to State/UT	
		2005	2006*
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	560024	669617
2	Arunachal Pradesh	289	607
3	Assam	10782	10374
4	Bihar	63321	84942
5	Goa	336803	380414
6	Gujarat	47107	87739
7	Haryana	59353	67854
8	Himachal Pradesh	207790	281569
9	Jammu & Kashmir	44345	46087
10	Karnataka	545225	505524
11	Kerala	346499	428534

1	2	3	4
12	Madhya Pradesh	160832	186587
13	Maharashtra	1448656	1654367
14	Manipur	316	295
15	Meghalaya	5099	4287
16	Mizoram	273	436
17	Nagaland	883	1002
18	Orissa	33310	39141
19	Punjab	4353	193933
20	Rajasthan	1131164	1220164
21	Sikkim	16523	18026
22	Tamil Nadu	1179316	1036732
23	Tripura	2677	3245
24	Uttarakhand	75995	85284
25	Uttar Pradesh	1174597	1328974
26	Chhattisgarh	912	1094
27	Jharkhand	6035	4368
28	West Bengal	895639	998029
29	A & N Islands	2147	9051
30	Chandigarh	23284	25217
31	Daman & Diu	6164	5517
32	Delhi	1511893	1974836
33	D & N Haveli	1226	1400
34	Lakshadweep	941	2142
35	Pondicherry	36009	46273

*Provision

Tourism industry in Assam

1029. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the current number of people employed directly and indirectly with the Tourism Industry in Assam;

(b) the importance of tourism industry in Assam, which is likely to open India to various countries in South-Eastern region;

(c) the scope of tourism potential as a source of employment; and

(d) whether any specially dedicated schemes are being proposed for the same?